

LadyLike



A Tasteful Magazine for Crossdressers

#31
\$10

**RuWho?
Frank
Marino
the World's
Greatest
Female
Impersonator**

TV Video Review
**I WANT
WHAT I
WANT**

**Expanded &
Up to Date
Support
Group
Listings**

**A Real Life Adventure
The New Amy**

**Letters
Letters
& More
Letters**

Foto Feature
**Behind The
Scenes On
The Lola
Catalog
Shoot**

Special Feature: The Art of LeVaughn

Editorial

Caribbean Queen

This month's editorial was written while on vacation in the beautiful Caribbean; Antigua to be precise. We had just wrapped up the Second International Congress on Sex and Gender Issues, and I went from an intense half week en femme (working as the Congress registrar) to a week of laying on the beach as a male person. Talk about your gender shock.

The hard part of gender shifting (for me, at least) is to present myself as one gender and have to show gender cues indicative of the opposite gender. Normally it's being en femme and having some hint of masculinity show. A classic example would be dancing at a hot night club and spotting a patch of hair on the arm you thought you had shaved clean before you slid into your little black, spaghetti strap dress.

It happens in the other direction, too — How do I hide my shaved legs at Uncle Fred's pool party?— but we work out methods of coping. Unfortunately, those methods only work in our natural habitats.

On vacation the whole world goes topsy turvy and you've got to be prepared for anything. That's why as the grounds keeper of our resort hotel asked me innocuous questions about how I was enjoying my stay, I was able to give him plain talking American answers, even though he didn't bother to hide the fact that he was looking my recently shaved, pale, white body up and down. I know he wanted to ask, "Hey mon, why you got you body shaved like dat?" But he didn't.

The figure I cut on the beach would never suggest anything macho to my fellow vacationers. Without a tan the dark stubble showed in stark contrast to my lily-white skin. Up close there was no doubt that something was up. It wasn't visible from a distance though and I heard, or thought I heard, patrons of the beach front bar (about 40 feet away) make comments like, "Is it a guy or a chick?" (It must be my child bearing hips.) To me that was the annoying part — when I'm being a guy I want to be a guy. When I am making my way in the world as a woman I want no manly cues undermining my presentation. None of that androgynous stuff for me.

I could, of course, have put the bar patron's doubts to rest once and for all (or perhaps confused them even further, since I didn't have my makeup and wig) by flouncing into the bar in the adorable Batik sun dress I bought on a brief shopping spree in St. Johns. My outrageous side said "Yes," but my conservative side said, "No way." It's probably better that I didn't make a fashion statement.

If anyone had the audacity to come out and ask me what was up, I would have been happy to tell them, but no one, not even Mr. Grounds Keeper, would actually ask. In most civilized locales, nobody will ask you any direct questions. People will think what they like — from not having a clue, to assuming you must be gay. You give them something to mull over as they go about their daily tasks. You also have the power to decide if you're going to enlighten them. How comfortable you feel under their scrutiny is up to you, too. Just remember, as my best friend, Jayne, says, "You'll never see these people again."

After a couple of days the regulars and staff stopped looking me over. Only new arrivals felt any need to check me out. As my skin got a bit darker (not too much darker and, yes, ouch, I did miss a few patches with the sunblock and see my dreams of a smooth, dark tan dissolve into a light tan with dark, irregular splotches) the stubble didn't show as much. After a brief trim with the electric razor, I would stride forth everyday to the beach and take my morning swim clad only in my Speedo swimsuit. (Say, that *is* pretty gay.) When I met anyone, whether fellow vacationer or native, I would look them in the eye and utter a hearty Good Morning. I may have a skinny, stubble covered body but I'm proud of myself. Now, having proven that I have a huge amount of self esteem, it's time to stop working on this editorial, slip into that new sundress and go out for a cocktail.

See you next issue.



LadyLike

A Tasteful Magazine for Crossdressers

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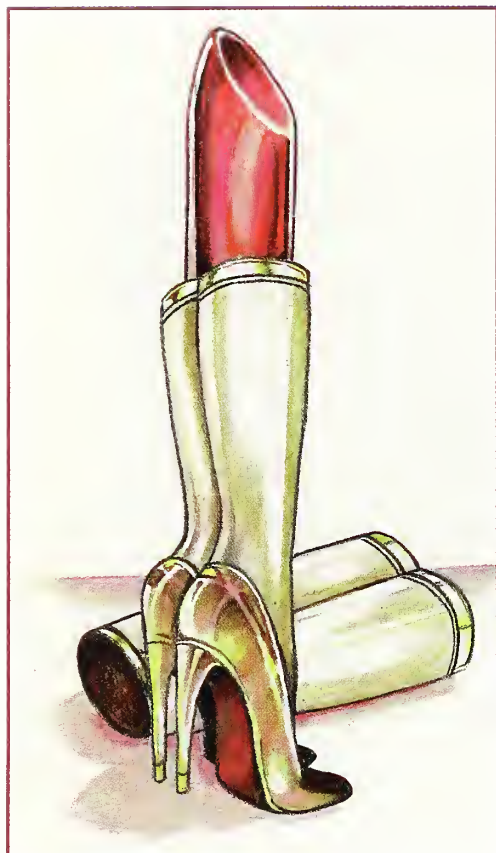
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transgendered

The Art of LeVaughn



Freelance design of a lipstick case ▲

"So I get a letter from this guy who was referred to me by a friend and he does illustrations. So I said, 'Send me some.' And that began a relationship that is still working today.

LeVaughn has a style all his own and it suits my needs perfectly. I've been promising him I would display his art in the magazine for several years. I'm glad that I finally get to keep my promise."

JoAnn Roberts
CDS Publications

My favorite LeVaughn illustration ▼



The cover for Art & Illusion Volume 2 ▲

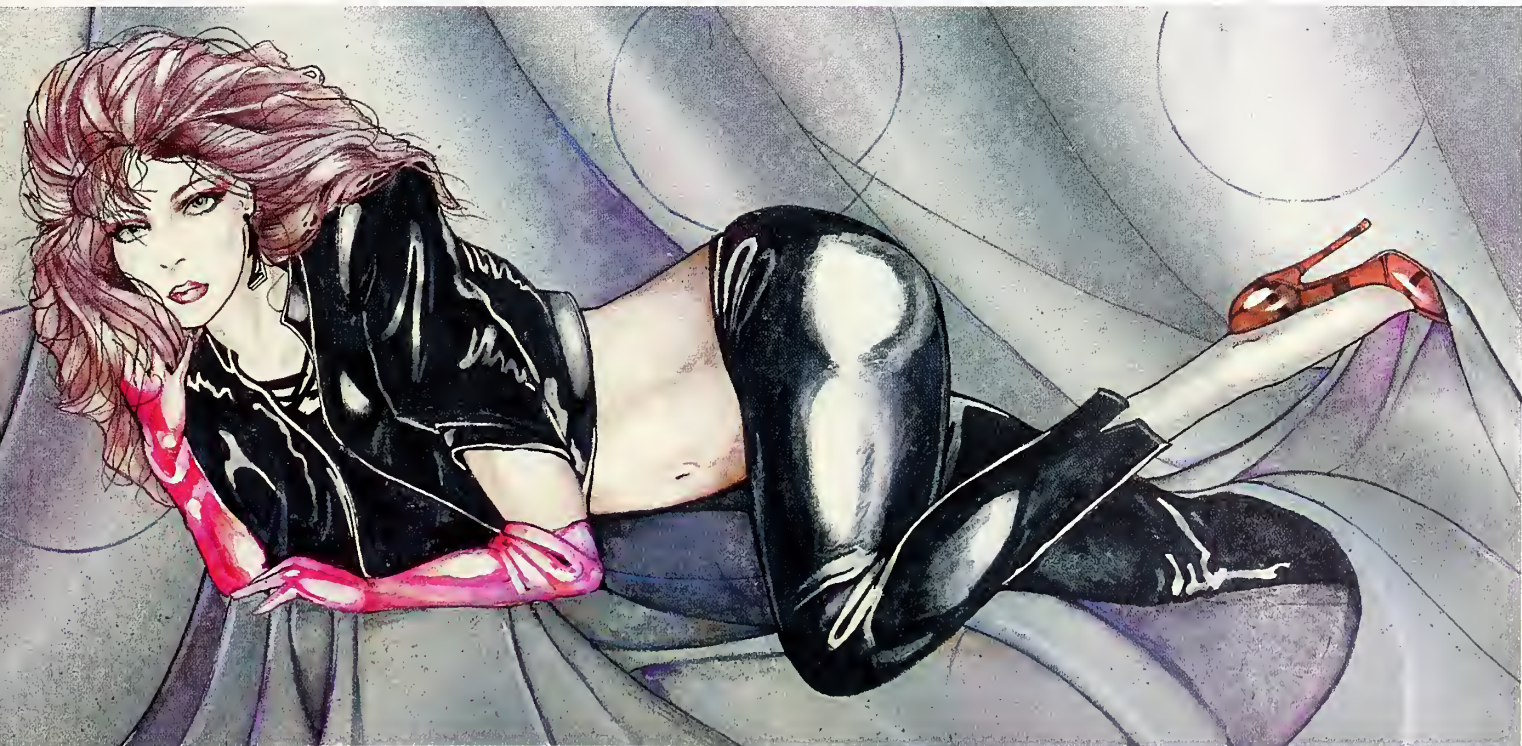
In His Own Words:

"There is one thing I noticed about CD publications. They're thrown in with their hard core fetish stuff. It is time for that to evolve. I'm hoping to participate in that evolution. Don't get me wrong. The fetish stuff is a blast and I've illustrated for fetish pubs. Each expression deserves its own pedestal.

I want to show individuals who are undeniably TV, but without the hard core eroticism."

Her majesty the Queen ▼





transgendered

The Art of LeVaughn

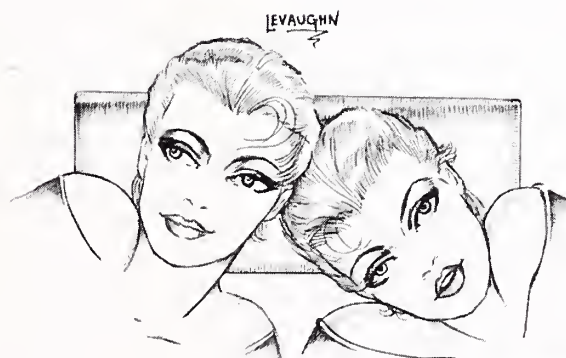


One of the great things about getting a letter from LeVaughn is that it always has new art at the bottom near his signature.





Cover art for Art & Illusion:
A Guide to Crossdressing



If anyone is
interested in
having
LeVaughn do
illustrations,
please contact
him through
this magazine.





A Chat with Frank Marino

Back in April, I was on my way out to the California Unity convention in Long Beach and I stopped in Las Vegas for a few days to gamble, lay in the sun and catch some shows. I stayed at the Riveria which hosts the world famous Evening At LaCage with superstar Fl Frank Marino. Frank had just published his autobiography so I called him up and set up a mini-interview for after one of his shows.

Frank was not at all what I expected — a New York drag queen transplanted to Las Vegas. This guy is a class act. He was friendly, personable, and very easy to talk with. We chatted two nights in a row and I had the most fun the second night dishing with Frank and two of his friends.

Here is the mini-interview and I hope to do a more in-depth interview in the future. The photos at left are exclusive to LadyLike from Frank.

JoAnn Roberts

LL: Why did you start your autobiography with your makeup routine?

FM: I figured it's what people wanted to know the most. The women always ask me about my makeup and my gowns and hair, so that's what I gave them.

LL: What do you think of all the attention RuPaul gets from the press lately?

FM: I met RuPaul back when he had a cult following, when no one had heard the name RuPaul. He was really nice and I really like his music. Now, though he's like more of a media event than a music artist. I don't think a media event has staying power over a long period of time.

LL: Does "La Cage" send out talent scouts? How does someone get in the cast?

FM: No, we don't have talent scouts, but we're always looking for new talent. People send us video tapes and they get reviewed. If the performer is any good we'll call them for an audition. If someone out there wants to tryout for our

show, have them send me a tape and I'll see that it gets to the right person.

LL: Share a secret tip with us.

FM: Thin out your wigs. Almost every wig has too much hair. Have them thinned out by as much as 50 percent and they'll look more realistic. Also go to a drug store that caters to African-American clientele and buy the oil-sheen hair spray. When your wigs get dry and ratty looking, spray them with the oil sheen. Perks them right up.

LL: What kind of wigs do you use?

FM: Believe it or not, most are regular René of Paris, thinned out as above and styled by my hairdresser, Gregory Andrews.

LL: Do you feel different in drag? In the wedding photo in your book you look so natural.

FM: Yes, I do feel different. We did that wedding photo as two boys and in the wedding gown. I was uncomfortable doing it as two boys. But, I live and perform in an Ivory Tower in Vegas. If I walk through the casino in a suit in drag, like my Joan Rivers outfit from the show, hardly anyone will look at me. It's Vegas, women look like this all the time here. Even in L.A. I can get away with it. But outside of those two places I don't think I'd be that comfortable in drag.

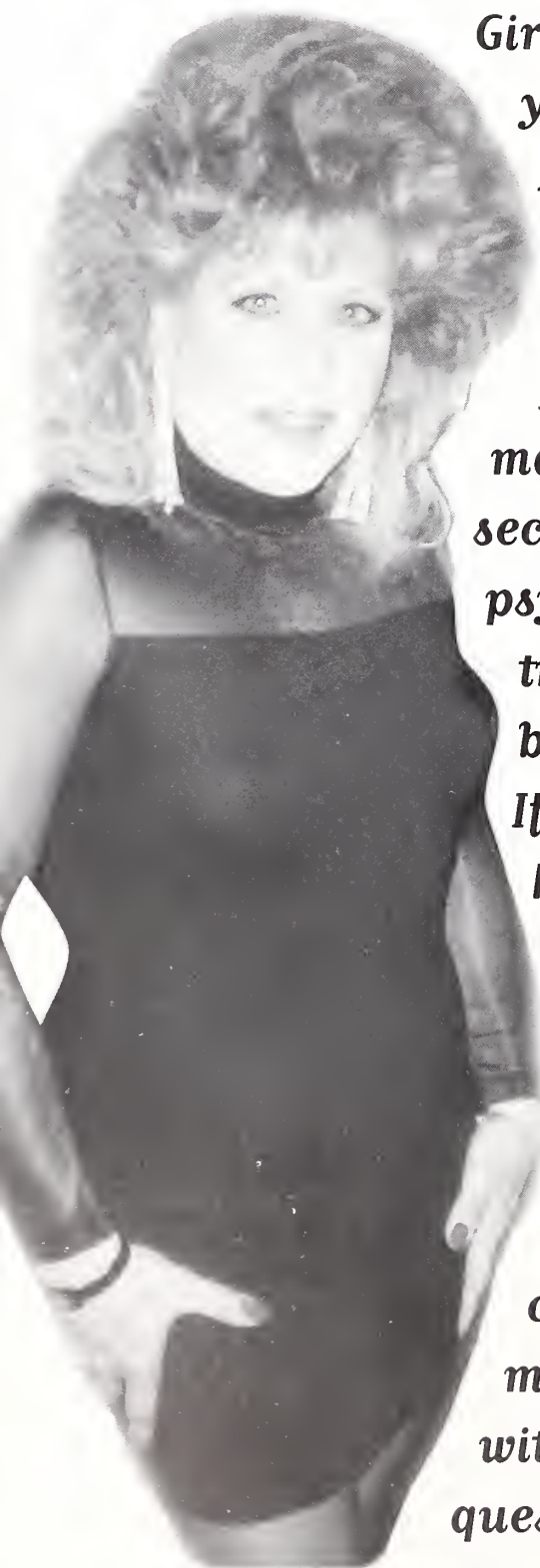
LL: How much longer will you do this?

FM: As long as I can. Why quit? When it sags, I'll have it lifted.

*You can learn more about Frank Marino from his autobiography, **His Majesty, the Queen**, available thru the CDS Bookstand (see ad elsewhere in the magazine). You can also visit the Frank Marino Fan Club website at <www.teleport.com/~fmarino>, or call 702-363-5768.*

Girl Talk

with JoAnn Roberts



**Girl Talk is
your forum.
Any question
on any topic
is fair
game, from
makeup
secrets to the
psychology of
transgendered
behavior.
If I don't
have an
answer,
I'll find
someone
who does.
Write me
care of this
magazine
with your
questions.**

Dear JoAnn,

My girlfriend and I are moving and she wants me to put away my girl-stuff for awhile. I think I can do it but I'll be in hiding all the time and your magazine will still be coming. She doesn't like my crossdressing and probably never will. Any advice?

Diane Thomas, Penna.

Dear Diane,

Ask your girlfriend to define "awhile." A week? A month? A year? You need to make your partner understand that if you never, ever, put on another article of feminine clothing again in your entire life, you'll still be a crossdresser... always. Because you'll always be thinking about it — even more so if you can't dress.

Suppressing your needs like that is not healthy. Sure, you can put it away for a short time, but eventually you'll want (and need) to go back to it. Do you want to do that behind her back or openly with her knowledge, if not her support? It will be difficult to have a good relationship if you're sneaking out to crossdress behind her back.

I suggest you sit down with her and talk it out. Discuss boundaries — when is it OK for you to dress and when is it not OK. Negotiate and compromise or else you will feel backed into a corner and become resentful. And she will feel betrayed when she catches you dressing again (you know you will).

Dear JoAnn,

I have a lot of red marks on my legs due to healing from scratches. The scratching is due to after shave itchiness. I put skin lotion on my legs for moisturizing after each shave. Is there any way to heal these red marks? I was told vitamin E will heal them but I bought skin cream with vitamin E and it doesn't seem to work. I have dark hair and I can still see black stubble on my legs even after close shave. Would waxing help with this problem?

Any suggestion will be greatly appreciated.

Nancy, Ore.

Dear Nancy,

Perhaps you should try moisturizing your legs before you shave, as well as after. You might also try lotions with Aloe as well as Vitamin E. If it is really bad, you could go to a dermatologist and get a prescription for a skin cream with lactic acid.

There's no way to get rid of stubble if you shave. Waxing will do it, but that may be even more painful and damaging to your skin. I would test wax on a small area before plunging ahead on both legs. You might try sugaring, cold wax, or a cream depilatory. Whatever you choose, it's not going to be perfect. Sorry.

JoAnn

Dear JoAnn

Because of my job I can't shave my legs, but I love skirts and stockings. Is there any way to hide the hair on my legs?

Viki, Ariz.

Dear Viki,

There are at least two things you can do. The first is to bleach the hair on your legs until it is light enough it doesn't show through your stockings.

The other alternative is to wear two or more pairs of pantyhose. Start with nude or beige opaque pantyhose. make sure they have a cotton crotch. Cut out a small portion of the crotch and then put these on. Now you can wear another pair of pantyhose or stockings with a garterbelt over the opaque hose. Dark patterned hose, like fishnets, are best.

You could combine the bleaching with the double hosiery for a better effect. This works pretty well for evening but not daytime, and it is very warm for summertime wear. Hey, you have to suffer to be beautiful.

Dear JoAnn,

I want a real Victorian corset. Where can I get one and what size should I get?

Rhonda, Fla.

Dear Rhonda,

Finding a Victorian corset these days is easy. Even Fredericks of Hollywood is carrying what seems to be a real corset. Check the ads in this issue for several

sources of corsets. In my opinion, the best off-the-shelf corsets come from Vollers and Axfords, both European manufacturers available through many U.S. sources. However, you might want to look into a custom-made corset fitted specifically to your body. Be prepared to spend some serious money.

If you want to wear the corset out while dressed, order one no more than 4 inches smaller than your natural waist. If you will only wear it for "special" occasions, you can order as much as 6 inches smaller. It will take some time to train your waist into that smaller measurement, so don't expect to lace down that much right away. You just might pass out.

Dear JoAnn

How do I figure out what size women's shoes I wear. I wear a man's size 10.

Jodi, Mich.

Dear Jodi,

Your foot will be wide than a female's foot, so you will have to compensate for width as well as length. Don't ask why but the measurements for women's shoes are different than for men. If you can find the style you want in a wide or extra-wide width then add one full size to your man's size, e.g. a 10C man's size will be an 11 WW in a woman's size. If the style only comes in a medium (B) width, then add a size and a half so, you would look for an 11 ½ B.

It used to be that finding anything larger than a size 10 was nearly impossible, but nowadays you can usually find nice shoes up to size 14 in places like Marshalls, TJMaxx and Filene's Basement.

If you can wear a B width up to a size 12, go look at the shoe selection on page 14 from Classic Pumps. They offer heel heights from mid (2½ inches) to sky-high (4 inches) and lots of sexy toe cleavage.

Stay frosty 'til next time!

JoAnn



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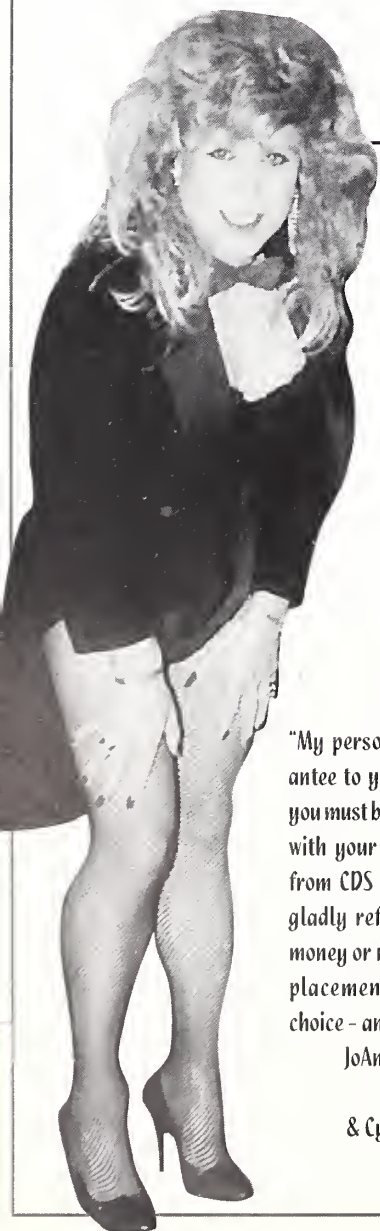
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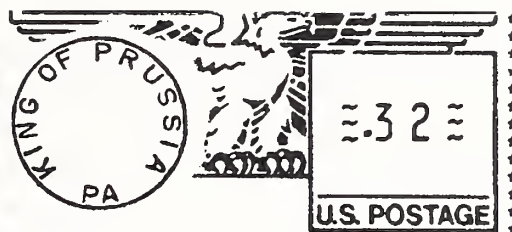
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Letters



Thinking About Transition

I want to thank you for publishing some of my photos in your past issues. Your courage and that of the others in your publication gave me the courage to go out for the first time about 2½ years ago. I have since been going to a salon for professional makeup application, my nails done and my wig styled. Unlike most of your other readers, I had only been out in the evening once and that was dinner at TGIFridays with a pre-op TS. Now, I start early in the morning and have a full day of shopping, lunch with girl friends and many times a doctor's appointment. I have been on hormone therapy for about four years. It started out as a means to treat my depression but my true self, Phyllis, came out in sessions. I am blessed with a wonderful wife who does not really approve but tolerates my dressing four to five mornings a week in girl's Guess jeans, panties, bra, and sweatshirt...just like any other lady might dress for two to three hours before going to work. I have really blossomed to a 38B. It still shocks me to see my breasts in a low cut gown.

I have gotten the same reaction that

most of your readers experience when they are out in public. If you look, dress and conduct yourself as a lady you can go anywhere without question. Those who know both Phil and Phyllis tell me that they prefer to associate with Phyllis any day. If all goes well I will be able to work more and more at home on my mail order health insurance business and be able to, hopefully, transition to full-time. I realize that I will lose the support of my family and I will have to dispose of the balance of my business but the way I feel now it will be very worth the hurt and sacrifice for my sanity. Whether SRS is in the future is up in the air. I know several people who successfully live as women full-time in Chicagoland without surgery.

I have to close for now. You are doing a great job. I hope I will be able to be more politically active for the transgendered community when, and if, I transition to full time.

Enjoy the photos of this 53 year old grandmother. I will look forward to future issues of *LadyLike* and perhaps my pictures. I know it will be several months till I start getting letters. I want to contact more of your readers in Chicago so I hope they too will have a forwarding number.

With all my love,
Phyllis Lane, III.
FWD#3055

Got Good Reactions

Recently I got enough courage to show some pictures of me dressed as a woman at the places I buy my wigs. Well, much to my surprise they didn't

know it was me. Both places said I made a very good looking woman. They are the only ones who know of my hobby. It is fun to do but I don't get to go out dressed at all because I live in a small community and do not want to get caught.



I decided to order *LadyLike* magazine and send you some of my pictures. I would like to know what you think of them and any advice you have be appreciated. You may put any of them in your magazine.

Thanks for publishing a great magazine. The few I have are very interesting and informative.

Sincerely,
Cindy from Wash.

Ours is not to judge, but to display your feminine pulchritude and let the readers decide. I'm quite sure they'll judge you to be a fetching young lady with a great sense of fun.

While I'm quite sure the wig ladies were sincere in their praise, I do have to point out that those you do business with have a vested interest in keeping

continued on page 15



Classic Pumps



Classic pumps designed and custom manufactured in Spain. Uppers made from buttery soft kidskin. Heels reinforced to resist breakage. Inner heel lined with suede to prevent slippage. All styles feature a low-cut vamp that shows toe cleavage. Anna & Lola heels measure 4" high, while Bella & Rossi measure 3" high, and Nany measures 2.5" high. All shoes in B width only, but from sizes 3½ to 12. Prices: \$56 – \$89/pair.

Classic Pumps
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DeKalb IL 60115
 Voice: 815•748•5506
 Fax 815•748•5507

<http://www.classicpumps.com>

Send Your Photos

The most frequent praise we get here at LadyLike Magazine is, "Your girls are the best!" The most frequent request we get is, "Can I write to ----?" So, we're responding to what our readers want. Beginning with this issue (#30), if you include your mailing name and mailing address on the back of your photos, we will print your address with your photo in the magazine so people can write to you directly. If you want us to forward mail for you **and you are a subscriber**, include \$10 and we'll assign you a number and forward any mail for you for one year.

Beginning with issue #30, if you want to write to someone whose picture appears in the magazine, look for an address and write directly. Or, look for a forwarding number like FWD9999 with the photo. If there's an FWD number, write your letter, put it in a #9 envelope and **in pencil** write the FWD number on the front. For **each** letter to be forwarded, put your letter, the #9 envelope, correct postage in stamps and \$2 in another envelope (#10 or larger) and mail it all to us here at LadyLike Magazine, c/o PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406-1263.

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you happy. Unbiased opinions, like those of our readers, will serve you better in the long run. Get out of your small community and contact one of the support groups in your area. Don't hide your beauty under a bushel.

Sees Growth In Everyone

I've been subscribing to *LadyLike* for about four years now and have been reading it even longer. I'm happy to say it just keeps getting better.



I must also pass along compliments to some of my sisters whom I've watched "grow" in the pages of LL. The first issue I saw featured Dee Gregory in the transformation process. (LL #7) After reading her story in issue 25 I'm glad to see her back in the fold!

Jeri in Utah has come along nicely, too, as have Robin in Virginia, Anita Amber, Dina Amberle, Linda Lewis, Lori Larkin, and on and on. You go girls! We've all grown together and I'm proud to feel like I know you.

I feel my "look" has improved and my name has changed from Rhonda to Ronnie, but most importantly, I'm a lot more comfortable with myself. I have *LadyLike* and all my sisters to thank.

Ronnie Rho, Neb.

Editorial Hit Home

After receiving my LL #29 I just had to write both of you. I was so honored that you printed one of my pictures (LL

#29, page 26). I was beginning to think the pictures I sent wound up in that huge pile in JoAnn's basement. I can't tell you how thrilled I was to see myself alongside all the other ladies.

This is a great magazine, always has been. I first discovered *LadyLike* ten years ago (the premier issue, 1987) by accident. It has only improved since.

Angela, your editorial in #29 really hit home. I've been a closet cross-dresser all my life. My wife of four years only recently found out about my secret. Luckily for me I have a very open minded, understanding wife. I won't go into all the details but I now have my wife's approval and help.



My wife has wanted to take me out in public crossdressed, but I've been reluctant. That is why your editorial meant so much. I'm ready to go out and look people in the eye. The editorial was a real inspiration. My wife and I have made reservations for the Pocono Weekend this September and are both looking forward to it.

I love the idea of printing addresses with the photos in *LadyLike*. Feel free to print mine if you decide to honor me even more by printing another photo. Keep up the good work.

P.J., PO Box 9038

Colorado Springs, CO 80932

To Tall To Go Out?

Just a brief letter to let you know

how much I enjoy reading *LadyLike*. There is no other magazine in our realm that compares with it. I have purchased many other publications throughout my years of crossdressing and most of them eventually found their way into the round file cabinet next to my desk. But I have saved every *LadyLike* that I have received. Keep up the great work.

Now a little bit about me. I am 49 years old, and like so many other transgendered folks, have been cross-dressing since I was a child. I think we are close to the same age. The major difference between us is that I have never ventured out as Donna. I guess that probably makes me, socially, a child in the world of femininity. My self confidence is virtually non-existent as a girl. I really haven't been able to generate enough desire to overcome the fear of being discovered. But recently, over the last few years, I seem to have become less caring about what others might think, although I still try to use some common sense in rationalizing my desires to experience the world beyond my home as Donna. It seems that I read somewhere that we tend to get more deeply involved with crossdressing as we age. It seems this is coming true for me. I am married and my wife is accepting and tolerant of Donna but is unable to relate to her as she relates to Don. So I guess that lands me somewhere between the worst and best of extremes involving relationships.

I really haven't had any objective feedback about my appearance as Donna. With this in mind I am enclosing several photos for your approval. I really don't know where I stack up as far as looking pretty enough to be in *LadyLike*, but I would appreciate your opinion on how I look. I have looked

continued on page 16



at so many hundreds of pictures of Donna that I just can't make a fair assessment of her. I am rather tall and this is one of the reasons I have been fearful of appearing in public dressed. At 6'4" without heels and 174 pounds I am not a petite person. Although I know most of us are taller than the average woman, it is still unnerving for me to think about going out. But I would really like to. I think that one of the gatherings that occur across the country would be a possibility.

Again, thanks so much for the opportunity to converse with you. There are, as you know, a lot of us out here are still floundering around trying to find our female selves. It is nice to see your candle glowing in the window.

Yours very truly,
Donna Leanne Hunt
Nashville, Tenn.

I don't want to hear anymore excuses, girl. You look up the number of the Tennessee Vals this minute and get yourself gussied up and out to one of their meetings. When I hear about people who live in remote places and can't dress cause there's no local group, and the town is too small for them to avoid discovery, I feel sorry for them, but when someone who is in the same town as an established support group tells me she's waiting to attend a national event out of town I get all het up.

You won't be the only tall girl at a TG support group. Now get on out there and have fun! Life is short.

Angela

Reader Smiles More

Thanks for the advice and encouragement in issue #28 of *LadyLike*. I want to be like your magazine and keep improving.

I am making more of an effort to smile — as you can see in the attached photos. It does seem to work but it does not come naturally.



I went to two clubs. The first was a gay bar that has a regular FI show. Several men approached me, (Is a gay man attracted to my femme appearance or does he think I could be an easy mark?)

The second club catered to TVs & TGs. I met several very nice people and expect to return as soon as possible. Keep up the good work.

Laura James, Ohio

If you smiled at the men sweetly, as you did in your photos, I know why they were after you. Don't worry, the woman is in charge. I'm glad you had a good time.

Angela

Loves Our Content

Just a note to say you have done a terrific job on the new edition of *Lady-*

Like magazine. The quality and content is unsurpassed. I love the pictorial features. Pictures... pictures... pictures. This issued reminded me of the old photo album issues that you use to do. I have been a devote reader since issue #1. I love having a publication such as your's to represent our community and to be on the newsstands. For those who know nothing of us it gives them an opportunity to meet us in a dignified and classy way. While other mags portray us more like a perversion, yours portrays us as a dignified group of people worthy of our place in society. Thank you for the fine work and high standards you have set.

Patricia (by email)

Jeri Is Number One Babe

After receiving #30 and seeing a letter from my No.1 Babe, the incredible Jeri Jones, I thought I'd write a letter for publication to tell a little bit about this amazingly lovely woman.

I have corresponded with Jeri for several years and have received more than 150 photographs of her in that time, each of great quality and all very sexy. She has even taken a few of my suggestions for special kinds of photos and sent me those shots as well. Although we have never met, I will be in her debt for the most wonderful attention she has shown me.

The two photos of Jeri in LL#30 show, astonishingly, that she has become better looking in the 16 years since her overly-dimpled 1980 picture. I have always compared her facial appearance to the gorgeous Jane Fonda and, believe me, from the dozens and dozens of pictures of Jeri that she has sent me, she's just as fantastic from her neck to her sexy toes.

I'll always have a soft spot in my heart for the glamorous Jeri Jones.

E.M., Ind.



**LadyLike Goes Behind the Scenes
at the...**

Lola Catalog Shoot

You've seen their ads in our pages for about a year now and they're also a vendor in the TGForum Shopping Mall on the Internet. Now, LOLA Inc., will release their first color catalog this Fall. LadyLike editor, Angela Gardner, was chosen as one of their models, along with Brittany and Minerva from NYC. LadyLike went along to get the behind-the-scenes scoop on the shoot.



▲ Brittany at the audition interview



◀ Angela poses at the casting call in New Hope, Pa. last June

Some of the "goodies" LOLA sells and the girls will get to wear.



The first part of the shoot was done outdoors in a nearby park. (Sorry, you'll have to wait for the catalog to see those shots.)

Here's Brittany (l) and Angela (r) getting ready for the indoor shots.



Lola Catalog Shoot



▲ Photographer, Rosemary, sets up Brittany for the next shot.



▲ Brittany (far left) and Lori (co-owner of LOLA) watch as makeup artist Lynda Krupa (see CDtips ad this issue) combs out a wig for the next shot.



▲ Minerva sits patiently as Lynda does her hair.



▲ Angela (l), Brittany (c) & Minerva (r) get set for a glamour shot.



Lynda adjusts Angela's hair before a photo ▼



Hey, just like in the real fashion shoots, Minerva uses clothes pins to adjust the size of her dress ▼

Lola Catalog Shoot



▲ Angela (l), Minerva (c) and Brittany (r) look at a Polaroid proof for the next shot.



▲ Brittany (l) gets a set of breast-forms from Lois (co-owner of LOLA).



▲ Angela (l), Minerva (c) and Brittany (r) get into position for a final series of photos. Notice the gloved hand on the right.



▲ The "L"s — That's Loren (l) whose house was used for the shoot, and Louise (c) the catalog designer, and Lori (r) co-owner of LOLA, Inc. Loren is the gloved hand in the photo lower left.



It was a long day, 12 hours overall. Angela ►
tried to grab a nap in between takes.

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Mirror Willol



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Cindy, Wash. ▲

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Mirror Willol

This past June the Renaissance Education Association, Inc., hosted the Second International Congress on Sex and Gender Issues. People from all over the United States and even from Europe attended the conference. On Saturday nite, June 21st, 200 people gathered to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Renaissance. Here are some of the people who came to party that night.

Christine Hochberg, SoCal ▼



Angela Gardner (l) & Jodie H., N.Y. ▼



"Miss Bob" Davis, San Francisco, Calif. &
"Miss Ben", Richmond, Va. ▼





Minerva (l) & friend, NYC ▲

Mirror Willol



Beverly, Mich. ▲ FWD9921 (The one sure way to guarantee your picture gets in the magazine!)



Kate Bornstein (l), Wash. & JoAnn ▲ Roberts, Phila., (r) at Renaissance 10th Anniv. Party.



Donna, PO Box 210585, Nashville, TN 37221 ▲



Esben B. Sweden (Renaissance 10th Anniv. Party) ▲



Dina Amberle, Phila., FWD9987 (Renaissance 10th Anniv. Party) ▲



Beverly, Mich. ▲ FWD9921



Jennifer, PO Box 36812, Grosse Pointe, ▲
MI 48236



April R., Neb. ▲



Michelle Jenkins ▲
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write directly to you!
See page 14 for how to
respond.



Mistress Barbara, Pa. ▲
(See page 29 for address)

J. J., Ind. ▼



Michelle Ross, Phila. ▲ FWD9943

Dee Gregory, Fla. ▼



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Lola Evans, Neb. ▲



P.J., P0 Box 9038, Colo Springs, ▲
CO 80932



Marci Williams, 4049 Connecticut, St Louis, MO 63116 ▲
marci8@juno.com



Robin Shumaker, 653 Cooper Ave, Johnstown, PA 15906 ▲



Lynn Luman, P0 Box 7377, Mesa AZ 85216 ▲



Crissy, Colo. ▼

All About Makeup Brushes

Cosmetics is a full time, billion dollar industry. Cosmetic brushes, used in the application of cosmetics, has been equally successful. Today there are more makeup brushes available on the market than ever before.

Price ranges differ greatly, from \$4.00 at the local drugstore, to the better department store versions that sell for \$25 to \$100

Why so many brushes? Simple, brushes are designed for specific areas. Take the eye, for example. With the right type of brushes, the eye can be shaped and emphasized to truly enhance its beauty. There is the angle cut eye brush, used to create shadow and definition, usually around the crease of the eye. There is the flat cut brush used to outline and highlight the shape of the eye. There is the small fluff

brush to place color on the lid. There is also a large fluff eye brush. When dipped into powder and smoothed over the entire eye, it creates a soft, blended and finished look to the eye.

For the cheeks, there is the blusher brush, with a longer handle for greater control. There is the contour brush with flat-cut bristles for creating angles and planes using darker color.

Why are some brushes so expensive? It depends on what the bristles are made from. Nylon bristles will be the cheapest. Goat or pony hair bristles will be more costly and the more exotic (like sable and squirrel) will be very expensive. Why choose hair brushes? Hair has a cuticle that picks up and holds color.

Some brushes are costly due to the type of hair. The more exotic the hair, like sable or squirrel, the more expensive the brush. An exotic type of hair or blend of hairs can increase a brush price 35-65% over normal industry standards.

You can buy brushes almost anywhere, drug stores and department stores are the most likely sources. Decide how much you can afford to pay for a set and then buy at least a minimum set. Later you might add a highlighter brush, an eyeliner brush, and more eyeshadow brushes.

A Minimum set of brushes would be:

(1) Powder Brush - The larger the better. The larger the brush, the softer the powder will go on. Look for what is called a super-dome.

(2) Blush Brush - For size, make sure the brush is the size of the "apple" of your cheek when you smile for the best application. Too large and you'll get blush all over, too small, and the color will streak.

(3) Contour Blush Brush - this brush is a must for contouring cheekbones. A sable brush, and in a chisel cut, make sure the bristles are cut at a deep angle (sort of like a super large angle eyeshadow brush).

(4) Angle Brush - You want this angle brush to be the tiniest brush you own. The smaller the brush, the thinner the line you'll get when doing eyebrows, and applying eyeshadow as eyeliner, either wet or dry.

(5) Eyeshadow Brushes - Get several in different sizes all chisel cut to avoid wasting eyeshadow, and in sable or if you can afford it, squirrel.

You also need to know how to maintain your brushes. My favorite product to keep them sanitized is the Brush Cleaner from Joe Blasco (available at most theatrical and cosmetic supply houses). It's a blue colored liquid, that smells like vanilla. The cleaner completely pulls the makeup (even lipstick) from the bristles and sanitizes the bristles. It also dries in minutes. Two tablespoons can be used to clean your whole brush collection.

Eyeliner
Of course, you can also use your favorite shampoo (the bristles are hair). Wash completely in warm sudsy water. Squeeze out any excess water, and press into shape. If possible, let the brushes dry laying down, or with the bristles hanging down. This prevents the water from getting into the ferrule and loosening the glue that holds the bristles. Let them dry overnight.

**Superdome
Powder Brush**

LL

Eyeshadow



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Michelle Parker, PO Box 404 ▲
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Mirror Willol



Michelle Mantzoul, 1050 Orleans, Charlesbourg ▲
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Flaine, KY ▲

If you want to write to someone whose picture appears in the magazine, look for an address and write directly. Or, look for a forwarding number like FWD9999 next to the photo. If there's an FWD number, write your letter, put it in a #9 envelope and **in pencil** write the FWD number on the front. For each letter to be forwarded, put your letter, the #9 envelope, correct postage in stamps and \$2 in another envelope (#10 or larger) and mail them to us at LadyLike Magazine, PO Box 61263, King of Prussia, PA 19406-1263. **SORRY**, if there is no address or FWD number, we cannot forward your letter.

Mirror Will



Gracia, SoCal ▲

Leighanne Stokes
PO Box 24224, Ft Worth TX 76124 ▼



Johanna Paranzino ▲
PO Box 457, Garden City NY
11530



Karen Gaston, Quebec, Canada ▲



Carolyn C Wade ▲
61-02 Grove St.
Ridgewood NY 11385

Denise, W. Pa. FWD2642 ▼





TOP ROW: Left – SKINTWO V-neck Dress \$115, Latex gloves \$45, Latex stockings \$60 (model Mistress Barbara); Center – Sinsation Satin Mistress Dress \$150 (model Anja); Right – Sinsation Satin Baby Doll \$115

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Improper Attire is owned and operated by Mistress Barbara (lower right). She is 6' 5" tall and the items she is wearing are far from the largest we carry. Mistress Barbara is available for sessions in S/M, B/D & Transformations. Photos by LEDA and Mark Richards.

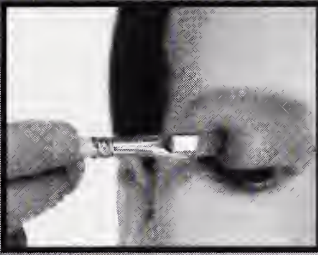
BOTTOM ROW: Left– Northbound Leather Halter Dress \$234, Winged Gauntlets \$101 (model Carrie); Center – Sinsational Satin Maid's Uniform \$135; Right – Northbound Leather Corset \$216, Stormy Leather Bra \$46 (model Mistress Barbara)



Do You Need Help? Are You Confused??

Finally! Answers to any questions you have about All areas of Crossdressing !!

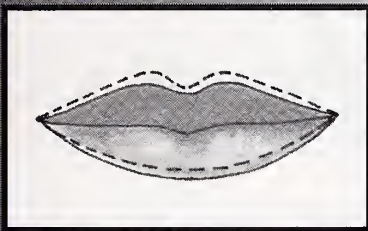
How do I cover my Beard Shadow ??
What are my correct make-up colors ?
How do I learn to apply all of this ??



What are the correct shades to use for my eye shape ?? How do I correct my eyebrows if I don't want to tweeze them ??

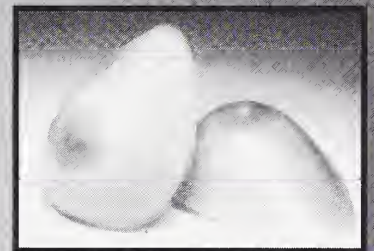


Being a person of large body type or being overweight has nothing to do with looking great and being passable (as seen in this photo)



What is the correct shape for my lips ??

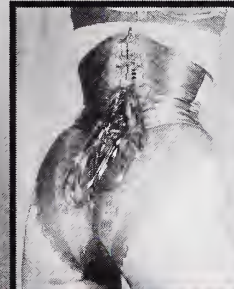
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you with
questions !!**



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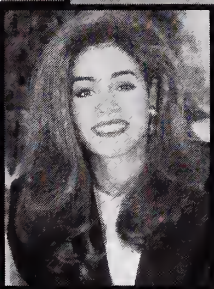
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Should I use a corset, Waist Slimmer, or a modified corset to create a feminine figure ??



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What wig color, style, and length is best for my face shape and body type ??



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Then & Now



Laurie 1963 ▲



Laurie 1980 ▲

Yes, its the TVideo Review lady, Laurie. She was kind enough to send us her photos and we though you would appreciate seeing more of her since her column is so popular. If you'd like to write to Laurie, send your letters care of the magazine.

Laurie 1996 ▼



▼ Laurie 1997 ▼



TV VIDEO REVIEWS

Crossdressing at the movies with Laurie Ann



In the past few years there have been a number of films with transgender themes or actors playing a transgendered person. The Crying Game; Priscilla, Queen of the Desert; To Wong Foo..., and M. Butterfly are recent releases that have achieved some degree of acclaim.

Although there are many more transgender oriented films today, there have been a number of such films since the 1960s. Most were the efforts of independent film makers. Most were low budget and often had obvious technical and acting flaws. Almost all of them had minor and very brief theatrical exposure and quickly faded from sight.

Many of these half-forgotten films have recently been transferred to video tape and are available from video sources that specialize in cult and obscure cinema. This column will review some of the lesser known films. You may find, as I have, that most of these films are not only fun and entertaining to watch, but they also offer some interesting insights about one of our favorite subjects — crossdressing.

I Want What I Want

While browsing in a bookstore back in 1966 I picked up a copy of a book titled *I Want What I Want*. The quote on the inside of the jacket cover seized my attention:

"I told myself that I must stop being ashamed. It was a dishonest feeling. Really I was glad I was as I was. It would have been best to be a woman. But it was better to be a transvestite than a man."

I bought the book without hesitation. Returning home I read it from cover to cover without a pause. I was fascinated. Here was a story about a twenty year old feminine man who wanted to be a woman. It was revelation to me that such a novel would be published and sold in an ordinary bookstore. I was used to looking for such stories in some sleazy adult book store.

I Want What I Want told the story of Wendy/Roy Clark, a twenty year old who despises his boy self. He had been secretly dressing for years and obtained his small wardrobe by stealing his sister's and neighbor's clothes. He is caught by a neighbor and his father places him in a mental hospital. Despite the sincere, humane, but inept, efforts of the staff he continues to want to "dress" and be a girl.

He returns home to live with his father and continues to dress whenever he can, including wearing lingerie under his boy clothes. He adds to his secret wardrobe by continu-



Anne Heywood as Roy (L.) who is so unhappy as a boy...

ing to steal from his sister. Roy justifies his behavior by stating: "I had to have women's clothing because I was a woman in my head. They could oppress me, but they could not get into my head. It was impossible for anyone to make me believe it was better for me to be a man than a woman."

Roy's father discovers that Roy is dressing again and finds the secret cache of girl's clothes. He beats Roy and shortly thereafter Roy leaves home. The rest of the story describes how Roy became Wendy Ross, and "her" struggle



... and as Wendy Ross as she readies to meet the world.

to live as a woman with the ultimate goal of becoming a woman through surgery.

The novel was incredibly realistic. The author, Geoff Brown, wrote a very sensitive novel about a transgendered young man. The story was done with insight and compassion. The only other attempt that came close was the 1933 (supposedly true) story of a man seeking a sex change, *Man Into Woman*. It was reprinted in the early 1950s but did not convey the emotional power of *I Want What I Want*.

I was delighted to learn in 1971 that the novel was to be a feature film. But, knowing the distortions that are typical in even the best efforts to put a novel on screen, I was prepared for the worst. I was pleasantly surprised. The film was a touching portrayal equal to the novel. Although the film turned the novel into a melodrama with some major plot alterations, the basic story remained intact.

I Want What I Want starred the well known British actress and former beauty queen, Anne Heywood, as Roy Clark/Wendy Ross. Harry Andrews, the tough looking British stage and screen actor, played Roy/Wendy's father.

The film begins with Roy staring out the window of his office at passersby. We see only their lower torsos and feet, not their faces. The scene is accompanied by moody background music and provides a nice metaphor to introduce Roy, who like so many other TSs, feels alone and an outsider.

We are provided only a small amount of information about Roy. He works as a rental agent. His mother died some years back and he has an older married sister. The father is a retired army major and the owner of a large supermarket. He is portrayed as a sophisticated womanizer. His son's "delicate" nature leaves him puzzled and embarrassed. Roy has no close friends and when he's not

working he stays home and reads.

Initially it is only implied that Roy "dresses up." He is shown looking longingly at a shop window displaying lingerie and he reverently touches some of his sister's clothing as he examines her wardrobe. In a very dramatic scene the father and a girlfriend return home and find Roy fully dressed, carefully made up and wearing a stylish wig while he watches television. Mortified, embarrassed and enraged the father says, "The Germans used to gas buggers like you." Roy, who we begin to sense is intelligent and courageous, replies, "And they gave medals to people like you," implying that masculinity can be cruel and barbarous. The father then physically assaults Roy.

Upset and confused Roy leaves home and obtains lodging in a rooming house. He has an inheritance from his deceased mother and can afford to live on his own. Roy purchases clothing, makeup and lets his hair grow. We see the gradual transformation from boy-self to girl-self and the sensuous delight taken in the process.

Then comes the moment of truth. Can I pass? What about my voice? Leaving her boy clothes behind, she steps out into the world, smartly dressed, but anxious and fearful. It soon becomes apparent to Wendy that she is perceived to be what she feels she is—a woman.

So begins Wendy's adventure as a young woman. She finds another rooming house and is fully accepted as a woman. Wendy spends much of her time shopping for clothes and reading. But she soon discovers an unanticipated problem associated with being a pretty young girl. Men are attracted to her and she is attracted to them.

Frank, a young man who visits the woman who owns the house where Wendy rents her room is attracted to her and pursues her. She is attracted to him but knows that a relationship is impossible.

Wendy seeks out a physician/sexologist to obtain help in becoming a woman physically. The doctor is very sympathetic and agrees to help her obtain surgery. But he counsels her that such an operation is simply cosmetic and she will remain legally a male.

In a melodramatic scene Wendy confesses her love for Frank. She also reveals her secret. Angry and disgusted he knees her in the groin and throws her to the floor, shattering a mirror in the process. He rushes out of the room wiping his mouth. Rejected and depressed Wendy attempts to castrate herself with a piece of the broken mirror.

The film skips to a year later. Wendy is in a hospital bed. Another supportive and kind physician tells her, "The

continued page 34

operation was a success Miss Ross." Smiling she says to herself, "Miss Ross." Now she is a woman. In the final scene, Wendy has bags packed and has a passport in her hand. Presumably she is going to America where she can be a woman legally.

The happy ending of the film is a major departure from the novel. The book ends with Wendy consulting a physician who is not very understanding. He tells her there is no such thing as a sex change operation. He adds that if she wants to "dress up" she should "cash in" on it by becoming a drag performer. He goes on to say, "It's not the most wholesome art form but it takes all sorts to make a world."

Returning home depressed and disillusioned Wendy makes a suicide attempt by turning on the gas in her room and over-dosing on aspirin. Wendy awakes from the failed suicide attempt sick, vomiting and dizzy. Telling herself, "I will get to Le Carousel in Paris," as she stumbles down the stairs. The reader is left with the hope that Wendy will find a way to express her feminine self as a drag artiste and go on living. Which is the more realistic ending? In the 60's perhaps the novel's ending was more true to life.

I Want What I Want is a remarkable effort given the time in which it was filmed. And it is still a powerful, emotional film, especially to many crossgendered individuals. There are obvious minor flaws and the film tends to plod along at

times. The melodramatic ending is perhaps a bit too unrealistic, but the acting is very good. I know some have complained that a male should have played the Wendy/Roy role. That would have been an added attraction, but don't discount Anne Heywood's performance. She does a credible job and the fact that she does not make a very good male is not a valid criticism. Some pre-op TSs I've known are even less able to act as a male.

A brief note about the author. Geoff Brown looks quite masculine on the book's dust jacket. Under the picture is the following: "When questioned he said that though he might be able to write what were taken as autobiographical novels, as yet he does not seem to have an autobiography of his own." To my knowledge *I Want What I Want* was his only novel. Was he a TV—or possibly a TS who simply erased "her" own former identity? Or was this simply a cathartic fantasy? We can only speculate.

Both the novel and video are presently unavailable. The video was released by Prism Entertainment. Persistent detective work will turn it up in a well stocked rental store. Obtaining the novel will be more difficult. We'll set loose our video hounds and hopefully someone will find a source for the video at least.

Don't hesitate to write me c/o *LadyLike*. I appreciate your comments and suggestions.

LL

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After



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After

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Tri-Ess Member

<http://www.ctdpub.com/lff.html>

U.S. Support Groups

Our listings are the most up-to-date. Please keep us informed of any changes or additions. Thanks!

National US Membership Organizations

American Educational Gender Information Service, PO Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033-0724. Publishes Chrysalis, AEGISNews, and several pamphlets on transgender issues. Also book sales. Extensive referral network for all transgender issues. Phone: 770-939-2128. Call in evening. AEGIS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit membership organization affiliated with Renaissance <aegis@mindspring.com> <http://www.cren.org/rafi/AEGIS.html>

International Foundation for Gender Education, 123 Moody St., Waltham, MA 02154. Publishes Transgender Tapestry (\$40/year subscription). Reprints and books on TV/TS subjects, other info. Hosts annual conference in different locations around the country. Phone: 617-899-2212. <ifge@world.std.com> <http://www.transgender.org/tg/ifge/>

Renaissance Education Association, Inc., 987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719, Wayne, Pa. 19087. 610-975-9119 24 hr. answering machine, but phones are answered personally on Monday and Thursday evenings. Membership fee of \$24 includes a 24-page monthly newsletter *RENAISSANCE: NEWS & VIEWS*. Also publishes Background Papers and Community Outreach Bulletins on transgender issues for personal and professional use. Speakers available for classroom, corporate, or media discussions of transgender issues. Renaissance currently has four chapters and seven affiliates. Affiliates are noted with "(!)" in the list below. Renaissance is a 501(c)(3) non-profit membership organization. <angela@ren.org> <http://www.ren.org>

Society for the Second Self (SSS), Box 194, Tulare, CA 93275. Focused on families and relationships. Tri-Ess publishes the *Femme Mirror* quarterly and hosts an annual convention. Tri-Ess chapters are marked with "#" in the list below. Tri-Ess is a non-profit membership organization. <jeftris@aol.com> <http://www.firstnethou.com/brenda>

Alaska

Alaska T People, c/o Bobbie Wendy Tucey, P.O. Box 670349, Chugiak, 99567

Arizona

Alpha Zeta#, PO Box 1738, Tempe, 85280-1738. Phone: 602-488-0959; Email to: kyle@goodnet.com.

A Rose, PO Box 1738, Tempe, 85280-1738. Phone: 602-488-0959; Email to: kyle@goodnet.com.

Tau Upsilon#, 8802 E Broadway Blvd. #145, Tucson, 85710. Phone: (520) 296-3472.

California

Alpha Chapter#, PO Box 36091, Los Angeles, 90036.

American Transsexual Education Center: A.T.E.C., 1626 N. Wilcox Ave., #584, Hollywood CA 90028. Amanda Silvestri, Dir., Phone: (213) 389-6938.

Androgyny, PO Box 480740, Los Angeles, 90048, L.A.: 213/467-8317; in Riverside: 909/360-5584.

Androgyny East, Inland Empire area. Meets once a week. Call 909-737-5889 ask for Sara, e-mail to michelle@pe.net.

BATLAW (Bay Area Transgender Law Association), 1360

Market Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94103. E-mail: BatLegal@aol.com

Born Free, PO Box 1897, Corona, 91718.

CD SOCIAL, PO Box 224, Montrose CA 91021.

CHIC, PO Box 8487, Long Beach, 90808.

Diablo Valley Girls, PO Box 272885, Concord, 94527-2885. Phone: (510) 937-8432

ETVC, PO Box 426486, San Francisco, 94142-6486.

FTM International, 1360 Market Street, Suite 200, San Francisco, CA 94103. Phone: 415-553-5987, or email to: tojamison@aol.com.

Gender Awareness League, c/o Grace Bredow, P O Box 46062, Los Angeles CA 90046.

Gender Expressions, P O Box 816, Lakewood, CA 90714. Phone: 310/869-4241, FAX 310/904-9201.

Ladies Knight Out, P O Box 19608-179, Irvine CA 92713, Heterosexual couples (714) 262-9105.

Neutral Corner, P O Box 12581, San Diego CA 92112. Phone: (619) 685-3696.

Omega Chi# (Orange County, CA), P O Box 1088, Yorba Linda CA 92686.

Pacific Center for Human Growth 2712 Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley CA 94705. Phone: (510) 548-8283

Powder Puffs of California, PO Box 1088, Yorba Linda, 92686.

PSGV Transgendered Support, 401 S Main Street, #104, Pomona CA 91765. Phone: 909/620-8987.

Rainbow Gender Alliance, PO Box 700730, San Jose, 95170-0730.

Sacramento Gender Assoc., PO Box 215456, Sacramento, 95821-1456.

San Francisco Gender Information, SFGI, P O Box 423602, San Francisco CA 94142-3602

San Joaquin Gender Assoc., 1141 Catalina Drive Box 163, Livermore CA 94550. Phone: (510) 447-9920.

Sigma Sigma Beta#, PO Box 19933, S Lake Tahoe, 96151.

Society for Initiatives & Services in Transgender Issues, P O Box 30844, Oakland CA 94604-0844. Phone: (510) 601-7975 Sharon Grayson.

Swan's Inner Sorority, P O Box 1423, San Jose CA 95109. Phone: (408) 297-1423

TGIF, meets in Santa Rosa. Call Diane at 707-544-1540 or email her at gad@crl.com.

Thursday Irregulars, c/o Joan Sheldon, P O Box 6541, San Jose CA 95150-6541.

Tri Chi#, P O Box 194, Tulare CA 93275. Phone: 209) 688-9246.

Colorado

Delta#, PO Box 16208, Denver, 80216. Phone: (303) 595-5TRI, or email to: mystie@aol.com.

Gender Identity Center, Inc., 1455 Ammons Street, Suite 100, Lakewood, CO 80215-4993, email to: kathyw@fortnet.org.

Phoenix Project 1740 South Buckley Road, #6-178, Aurora CO 80017.

SCIRTS Southern Colorado InterRegional Transgender Society, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Teenage Kids of TS, TAKOTS, c/o Laurie Cicciotello, 1740 S. Buckley Road #6-178, Aurora CO 80017.

Connecticut

Connecticut Outreach Society, PO Box 163, Farmington, 06034. Phone (203) 657-4344 email to: karacder@aol.com.

ConnecticutView (!), PO Box 2281, Devon, 06460. Email Denise Mason at MasonD@aol.com.

Twenty (XX) Club Inc. (for TS only), PO Box 387, Hartford, 06141-0387.

Images, P O Box 666, Thompson CT 06241-0666. Phone: (203) 779-9708 (voice and FAX)

Gender Identity Clinic of New England, GICNE, 68 Adelaide Road, Manchester CT 06040. Clinton R. Jones, Director. Phone: 203-646-8651.

Delaware

Renaissance, Delaware Chapter, PO Box 5656, Wilmington, 19808. Phone: 302-376-1990 or email to: sadedc@aol.com

District of Columbia

TADD, Transgenders Against Discrimination in the District, c/o HCC, 813 L. Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003. Phone: 202-543-6777.

Florida

Animas, P O Box 420309, Miami 33242.

Eden Society, P.O. Box 203, Deerfield Beach, FL 33443-0203. Phone 305-247-6254 (Lee), or email to: edents@aol.com.

Gender Society of the Palm Beaches, c/o Compass, 1700 N Dixie Hwy, W Palm Beach, FL 33407.

Phone: 561-833-3638, or email to RhondaWil@aol.com.

Gamma Chi Beta#, Gulf Coast Belles, PO Box 510045, Punta Gorda, FL 33951-0045. Email to Catherine at tvcathy@peganet.com

North Florida Sisters (NFS), PO Box 5765, Jacksonville FL 32247-5765. Contact Arica at CDARICA@AOL.COM. [9707]

Pathways, PO Box 51462, Ft. Myers, 33905-1462. Phone: 941-693-1136. Email: PathwaysFL@aol.com

Phi Epsilon Mu#, PO Box 3261, Winter Park, 32790. Phone: 407-382-8389 Email: denisesfl@aol.com.

Serenity, PO Box 307, Hollywood, 33022. Phone: (954) 436-9477.

Starburst, P O Box 17411, Clearwater 34622-0411, Phone: 813-523-8760.

TLC#/Pantra, P O Box 3426, Tallahassee 32315-3426. Email to: petrad@freenet.tlh.fl.us.

Transgeneration, Address TBA, Gainesville. Phone: 352-6162, 10 AM -midnight, Sun & Sat, email to: cdfglvl@fdt.net.

Georgia

AGE(!), PO Box 77562, Atlanta, 30357, Ph: 770-435-4203.

Sigma Epsilon#, PO Box 272, Rosewell, 30077-0272, Ph: 770-552-4415.

Hawaii

Hawaii Transgender Outreach, PO Box 4530, Honolulu, 96812. Phone: (808) 923-4270.

Idaho

Boise Bloomers, C/O Elizabeth P., 582 E. Boise Ave, Box 153, Boise ID. 83706, Phone: (208)388-3864 or email to: Liz@rmci.net.

Iowa

Iowa Artistry, PO Box 75, Cedar Rapids, 52406, or email to: scottm@ins.infonet.net

River City Gender Alliance, RCGA, P O Box 680, Council Bluffs IA 51502. Phone: 402-398-1255.

Illinois

Central Illinois Gender Assoc., PO Box 182, Washington, 61517. Phone: (309) 444-9918, JoAnn.

Chi#, PO Box 40, Wood Dale, 60191-0040. Phone: (630) 262-8707

Chicago Gender Society, PO Box 578005, Chicago, 60657, Phone: (708) 863-7714.

Outpost TransGender Group, 123 W Church Champaign, IL 61825. Phone: Elizabeth (217)-359-5113, or email to: bridgett@prairienet.org.

TransGender Significant Others, phone: (217)-328-4469, or email to: straf@uiuc.edu.

Sunday Society, P O Box 478850, Chicago IL 60647. Phone: (312) 486-3125 or (312) 252-7024

Indiana

IXE, PO Box 20710, Indianapolis, 46220. (812) 876-5635 (Gloria), (812) 882-4755 (Geri), or email to: ixex@aol.com..

T.O.N.I., Transgender Outreach of Northern Indiana, Ltd, PO Box 2372, Portage, IN 46368. Phone: 219-929-8533 or email at: jenfermares1@juno.com.

Kansas

KC Crossdressers & Friends, PO Box 4092, Overland Park, 66204. Phone: (913) 791-3847

Wichita Transgender Alliance, 6831, Wichita, KS 67216. Email to Laylaj@AOL.com. [9701]

Kentucky

Bluegrass Belles, c/o Anne Casebeer, PO Box 20173, Louisville, Ky 40250.

Louisville Gender Society, Box 5458, Louisville, 40255. Phone: (812) 944-5570 - Barbara, (502) 458-8028 - Patti, or (502) 966-8701 - Lori.

Louisiana

Gulf Gender Alliance(!), PO Box 870213, New Orleans, 70187-1300. Phone: (504) 833-3046.

Maine

Maine Gender Resource & Support, c/o Jean Churchill, PO Box 1894, Bangor ME 04402-1894.

Outreach Institute of Gender Studies, 405 Western Ave., #345, S Portland, 04330. (205) 775-0858.

Transsupport, PO Box 17622, Portland, 04101.

Maryland

The Bridge Club, c/o Michelle Gerald, P O Box 11737, Baltimore MD 21206-0337.

Transgender Support Group of Baltimore, c/o Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Baltimore, 241 W. Chase St., Baltimore MD 21201. Phone: (410) 837-5445, or switchboard 7-10pm (410) 837-8888.

Tri-State Transgendered Club, c/o Diane Terrant, P O Box 3102, Deer Park MD 21550-1002. Phone: (301) 453-3538.

Washington - Baltimore Alliance c/o R. Lewis, Box 1994 Silver Spring Maryland, 20915. Email to HGarfin725@aol.com.

Massachusetts

AXAP O Box 380547, Cambridge MA 02238.

Berkshire Alternatives, PO Box 508, North Adams, 01247.

Gender Identity Support Services for Transsexuals, (G.I.S.S.T.) Phone: (617) 720-3413.

Getting Real, PO Box 194, West Newton, 02165.

Innvestments , (Cape Cod area), PO Box 2194, Orleans, 02653.

The Myriad Network, PO Box 288, Williamstown, 01267.

Reflections, PO Box 4002, East Dedham, 02026.

Sunshine Club,P.O. Box 564, Hadley, MA 01035-0564. Phone: 413-586-5004 or email to: AE907@yfn.yso.edu. [9706]

Tiffany Club of New England, Inc., PO Box 2283, Wobum, 01888-0483. Phone: (617) 891-9325 (answered live Tuesdays 7 - 10 PM Eastern Time).

Transgendered Alliance, (TGA), PO Box 38-1005, Cambridge, 02238.

Wayland house, PO Box 3128, Shawseen, 01810

Michigan

Crossroads, PO Box 1245, Royal Oak, 48068-1245. Phone: (313) 537-3267

IME of Western Michigan, PO Box 1153, Grand Rapids, 49501.

Gender Explorers, c/o Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs, 3116 Michigan Union, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48109-1349

Northwest Michigan Gender Society, c/o Tricia Marie Benton, PO Box 271, Petoskey, 49770.

Minnesota

Beta Gamma#, PO Box 8591, Minneapolis, MN 55408. Voice Mail: (612) 8708536, or email to: triessbg@tri-ess.com. [9706]

CLCC, PO Box 14844, Minneapolis, 55414-0844. Phone: (612) 229-3613 or email to clcc@topcity.com.

MFGE, PO Box 17945, St. Paul, 55117. Phone: (612) 220-9072 (voicemail).

Mississippi

Beta Chi#, PO Box 31253, Jackson, 39286-1253. Phone: (601) 982-7678 (24 hrs).

Missouri

St. Louis Gender Foundation, PO Box 9433, St. Louis, 63117. Phone: (314) 367-4128. Email to StLGf@aol.com.

Nebraska

River City Gender Alliance, P. O. Box 3112, Omaha 68103-3112. Phone: 402-398-1255, or email to: sgibbons@synergy.net.

Nevada

Silver Rose Gender Association. Contact, Lynda Cheney, P.O. Box 1334 Carson City, NV, 89702 or e-mail to: lyndach@aol.com.

Theta Upsilon Gamma#, PO Box 91871, Henderson, 89009-1871. Email to sage@intermind.net.

Transsexual Support Group, c/o Community Counseling Center, 1120 Almond Tree Lane, Las Vegas. (702) 369-8700 for general information and interested persons can email: lisatg696@aol.com. [9706]

New Hampshire

GT North PO Box 421, Peterborough, NH 03458. Contact Pat Wells email to gtnorth@top.monad.net.

New Jersey

C.A.T.S. (Community Alliance of Transsexuals), P.O. Box 557, Browns Mills, NJ 08015. Phone: 609-702-0098

Chi Delta Mu#, PO Box 1, River Edge, 07661-0001. Phone: 800-484-7593 (code 4985), or email to: cdm@carroll.com. [9706]

MOTG(!), PO Box 8243, Red Bank, 07701. Phone: (908) 219-9094, or email to Vikkimotg@aol.com.

Renaissance New Affiliate Startup (Titusville area) - contact Terri Risley at (609) 933-2233.

Sigma Nu Rho#, 1092 St. Georges Ave., Suite 234, Rahway, NJ 07065-2664. Phone: 800-480-3152, or email to tris@mcione.com [9706]

New Mexico

Phi (Fiesta)!, 8200 Montgomery NE, #241, Albuquerque, 87109. Phone: (505) 299-2533.

New York

Buffalo Belles#, NuPhiChi, PO Box 1701, Amherst, 14226. Phone: (716) 643-2626.

CD-Network, PO Box 92055, Rochester, 14692. Phone: (716) 251-2132. [9706]

EON Inc., PO Box 3586, Syracuse, NY 13220-3586. Phone: (315) 423-4099.

Gender Identity Project, Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, 208 West 13th Street, New York, 10011. Phone: (212) 620-7310.

Imperial Queens & Kings of New York, Suite 301, 80 Eighth Ave, Manhattan, NY 10011. Phone: 212-627-1969 (NY), 516-386-1383 (LI) and 201-584-7644 [5/97].

Lambda Chi Lambda#, PO Box 1010, Cooperstown, 13326. Phone: (607) 547-4118, or email to StuComOne@aol.com.

L.F.E.,Box 1311, Wayermill, NY 11976-1311. Phone: (516) 283-1333, or email to: JoEd2Viola@aol.com.

Metropolitan Gender Network(!), 561 Hudson St., Box 45, New York, 10014. Phone: (201) 794-1665 ext. 332, or (718) 461-9050.

Rochester Transgender Organization. Contact Perette at 716-442-2425 or by email at perette@selantia.roc.servtech.com.

Syracuse Transgender Society: Contact: Charliss Dolge 315/422-6220, or Charliss@dreamscape.com.

TGIC, PO Box 13604, Albany, 12212-3604. Phone: (518) 436-4513 (live Thurs. 7-9 p.m., or leave a message and instructions for calling back).

North Carolina

Kappa Beta#, c/o Corresponding Sec'y, PO Box 12101, Charlotte, 28220-2101. Phone: (704) 565-5034, or email to dajones@InfoAve.net

Phoenix Transgender Support, PO Box 18332, Asheville, 28814. Phone: (704) 259-9428.

Triad Gender Assoc., PO Box 2264, Jamestown 27282-2264. Phone: 910-454-1493, or email to dula@nr.infi.net.

Ohio

Alpha Omega#, PO Box 2053, Sheffield Lake, 44054-0053. Phone: (216) 556-0067.

Cross-Port, PO Box 1692, Cincinnati OH 45201-1692. Phone: (606) 581-3711, Jenn, or email to: WGBN68D@prodigy.com.

Crystal Club, PO Box 287, Columbus, 43068. Phone: (614) 231-1368, or email to: cc@stargate.com. [9701]

Glass City Sisters, PO Box 8532, Toledo, 43623.

Paradise Club, PO Box 29564, Parma, 44129. Email to: paradisedi@aol.com.

Oklahoma

Central Oklahoma Transgender Alliance, (COTA), PO Box 60354, Oklahoma City, 73146.

Oregon

Choices and Voices, 212 High St., Salem, Oregon 97303. Contact: (503) 373-4415, Allie or Gwen or email to pcb4reb@sprynet.com.

Intermountain Transgender Outreach, 1524 Monroe Avenue, La Grande. Phone: 541-963-7732, or email to keol@eosc.osshe.edu.

Phoenix Rising Foundation, The Trans Group (for TS/TG/TV and questioning youth) & Transsexual Peer Support Group, 620 SW 5th Ave., Suite 710, Portland, Oregon 97204. Phone: (503) 223-8299.

North West Gender Alliance, PO Box 4928, Portland, 97208. Phone: (503) 646-2802 .

Trans-Port, PO Box 66913, Portland, 97290. Phone: (503) 774-8463.

Capital City Chapter, PO Box 3312, Salem, OR 97302 (please include an SSAE).

Pennsylvania

Erie Sisters, 903 West 8th Street/Suite 261, Erie, PA 16505. Email to ErieSisters@aol.com.

The Gender Group of Pittsburgh at the Persad Center, 5150 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15232. Contact Cheryl at: 412-362-1638 Or E-Mail unicorn@nb.net.

Gender Transgressors, c/o Ben Singer, 1123 W. Orianna Street, Philadelphia, PA 19123. Phone: 215-922-5943 or bensinger@eden.rutgers.edu.

OASIS, PO Box 622, Meadville, PA 16335.

Phila. TS Support Group , PO Box 15839, Philadelphia PA 19103. Phone: (215) 567-7879.

Renaissance GPC, Greater Phila. Chapter, 987 Old Eagle School Rd., Suite 719, Wayne, 19087. Phone: (610) 975-9119

Renaissance LSV, Lower Susquehanna Valley Chapter, PO Box 2122, Harrisburg, 17105. Phone: (717) 780-1578. Email to: lsv@ezonline.com.

Renaissance LV, Lehigh Valley Chapter, PO Box 3624, Allentown, PA 18106. Call 610-821-2955 for directions or email to MonaLaura@AOL.com.

TransFamily, c/o Deni Scott, 962 Rockdale Road, Butler, PA 16001. Phone: 412-758-3578 (Janet), or email to: dscott@pgh.net.

TSG (Transsexual Support Group), 6020 Penn Circle South, Pittsburgh, 15206. Phone: (412) 661-7030, or email to ts@usaor.net.

Transpitt, PO Box 3214, Pittsburgh, 15230. Phone: (412) 224-6015.

Tennessee

Alpha Pi Omega#, PO Box 784, Brentwood, 37204 Tennessee Vals, PO Box 92335, Nashville, 37209. Phone: 664-6883 (voice mail).

Memphis TransGender Alliance, P.O. Box 11052, Memphis, TN 38111-0052

Texas

Alpha Tau,(Austin), PO Box 2753, Cedar Park,78630-2753.(512) 331-5147. [9704]

Austin Second Image, PO Box 14965, Austin, 78761. Phone: (512) 515-5460 Wed. 7-9pm.

Boulton & Park Society, PO Box 17, Bulverde,

78163. Phone: (830) 980-7788 [9707]

GCTC, PO Box 90335, Houston, 77090. Phone: (713) 780-GCTC, (713) 780-4282 voice.

HCDA (Helping CDs Anon.), 6804 E Hwy 6 S #334, 77083. Email to: brenda@firstnethou.com.

Metroplex CD Club/Delta Omega#, Bldg 106, Ste 144, 7120 Rufe Snow Dr, Wautauga, TX 76148-1862. Phone: (214) 264-7103, or email to: domiss@flash.net.

Nu Epsilon Tau#, PO Box 14096, Pantego, 76094. Phone: (214) 490-5738. [9701]

ReCast, PO Box 224001, Dallas, 75222-4001.

Texas Assoc. of Transsexuals (TATs), PO Box 142, Bellaire, 77401. Phone: (713) 827-5913 voice mail.

Tau Chi#, PO Box 1105, Alief, 77411. Email to TRISINFO@aol.com.

TS-Peer Support, c/o Alice Webb, MSW, Atrium Crest Bldg., 18333 Egret Bay Blvd., Ste560, Houston TX 77058. Phone: (713) 333-2278.

West Texas Gender Alliance c/o Tami Maloney, PO Box 6726, Abilene TX 79608.

Utah

Salt Lake Gender Consortium, PO Box 651073, Salt Lake City, 84165. Email to: watsonlaw@aol.com.

Reflection House, PO Box 628, Pleasant Grove, 84062. Phone/FAX: (801) 224-4737.

Virginia

Hampton Roads Transgender Outreach (HRT0), PO Box 61606, Virginia Beach, VA 23466-1606. Our contact phone is: (757) 627-4652.

Metro Area Gender Alliance MAGA, PO Box 16036, Arlington, 22215. Phone: (301) 949-3822.

Richmond Transformers, c/o Gray Barbour, 2308 Reed Rd, Richmond, VA 23230-2110. Phone: 804-288-5502

TransGender Education Association (TGEA), P.O. Box 16036, Arlington, Virginia 22215. Phone:(301) 949-3822 or email to: TGEA@aol.com.

Washington

Emerald City, PO Box 31318, Seattle, 98103. Phone: (206) 284-1071.

Futurebuilders, c/o April Bresgal, N. 111 Cedar St., Spokane, WA 99201. Phone: 509-456-2517.

Ingersoll Gender Center, 1812 E. Madison, Suite 106, Seattle, 98122-2843, or email to ingersol@halycon.com.

Transsexual Lesbians & Friends TLF, Seattle (no street addressd). Phone: (206) 292-1037.

West Virginia

The Valley Girls, PO Box 181, Dunbar, WV 25064-0181. Phone (304) 340-3512 [9707].

Trans-WV, PO Box 2322, Huntington, WV 25724.

Wisconsin

Gemini Gender Group, PO Box 44211, Milwaukee, 53214. Phone: (414) 297-9328 (voicemail).

Wyoming

Central WY Transgender Support Group, P.O. Box 1301, Evansville, WY 82636-1301

Canadian Support Groups

Canada

Alberta

Phi Sigma#, PO Box 81115, 755 Lake Bonavista Dr SE, Calgary, T2J 7C9.

Illusions Club (peer support & info), PO Box 2000, Calgary, T2C 1B4. Phone: +1 (403) 236-7072.

Illusions Club II (peer support & info), Box 1852, Edmonton T5J 2P2

British Columbia

Dream Girls, P.O. Box 535, Kamloops, V2C 5L7.

Combury Society, PO Box 3745, Vancouver, V6B 3Z1, Phone: 604-415-2767.

Foundation for the Advancement of Trans-Gendered People's Society (FATE) 1-1727 William Street, Vancouver, V5L 2R5. Phone: +1 (604) 254-9591.

Zenith Foundation, 8415 Granville Street, PO Box 46, Vancouver, V6P 4Z9.

Manitoba

Prairie Rose Gender Club, PO Box 23 Gp 4 RR1, Dugald, R0E 0K0. Phone: +1 (204) 257-2759.

Ontario

Canadian Cross Dressers Club, c/o Wildside, 161 Gerrard St. E, Toronto M5A 2E4. Phone: +1 (416) 921-6112, or email to info@wildside.org.

Gender Metaphor, 829 Northwest Road, Suite 715,

Kingston, Ontario K7P-2N3. Contact by email only at this time genmet@adan.kingston.net.

Gender Mosaic, PO Box 7421, Ottawa, K1L 8E4.

Phone: +1 (819) 770-1945 or email to: gender_mosaic@canadamail.com.

Transition Support, c/o The Church Street Community Centre, 519 Church Street, Toronto, M4Y 2C9.

Street Outreach Services, SOS, 622 Yonge St., 2nd Fl, Toronto, M4Y 1Z8. Phone: +1 (416) 926-0744 (24 hours).

Xpressions, P.O. Box 223, Station A, Toronto, M5W 1B2, Voice mail: +1 (416) 812-6879.

Quebec

Club MET, 4113 Dorion St., Montreal, H2K 3B8. Phone: +1 (514) 528-8874

FACT - Quebec, PO Box 293, 5858 Cote-de-Neiges Boulevard, Montreal, H3S 2S6.

TransPORRS (Post Op Recovery Residence), 475 Blvd Gouin Ouest, Montreal, H3L 1K4.

THE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

September '97

4-7, Rites of Passage 7, Guerneville, Calif., contact Wendy Kaiser, 246 Lebanon Road North, Berwick, Maine 03906. Phone: 207-676-5870, or email to WKaiser@aol.com.

10-13, 15th Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Symposium, Vancouver, BC, Canada. Contact HBIQDA, 3790 El Camino Real, #251, Palo Alto, CA 94306. Phone: (415) 326-4645 or FAX (415) 322-3260.

18-21, Paradise In The Poconos Spring 97 crossdresser's getaway weekend. Spouses and partners are very welcome to attend.

19 - 21, 5th Annual Conference on Lavender Languages and Linguistics, Talking Sex: Sexual Practices, Politics and Identities, held at the American University, Washington, D.C. For more info: contact the Planning Committee, Lavender Languages V by email at wlm@american.edu or by mail: Department of Anthropology, American University, Washington, DC 20016 phone: 202-885-1831, fax: 202-885-1837.

24 - 28, Colorado Gold Rush, Denver, Colorado. The keynote speaker is Les Feinberg. Sponsored by Gender Identity Center, Inc., 1455 Ammons Street, Suite 100, Lakewood, CO 80215-4993, email to: kathyw@fortnet.org.

October '97

2-5, Southern Comfort, Atlanta, Contact Southern Comfort Convention,

P.O. Box 77591 Atlanta, GA 30357. Phone: (404) 633-6470 or email to SCCatl@aol.com.

9-12, 3rd Annual OutCharlotte Cultural Festival, Charlotte, NC. Contact OutCharlotte at 704-563-2699.

19-26, Fantasia Fair, Provincetown, Mass. (Cape Cod). Contact FanFair Registrar at PO Box 2734, Boston, MA 02208.

24-26, Genders, Bodies, Borders, sponsored by the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies at the University of Michigan. For info, contact Jayne London by email at jplondon@umich.edu or by phone at 313-647-6341.

30-11/02, Fall Harvest 97, Omaha, Nebraska at the Red Lion Inn (soon to be the Doubletree). Contact Fall Harvest 97 Committee, PO Box 24408, Omaha, NE 68124.

November '97

1, 6th Annual Buenos Aires Lesbian, Gay, Transvestite, Transsexual and Bisexual Pride Celebration, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Phone: 54-1/373-89-55.

6-8, TransPositions: Toward Transgender Studies, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. Expected speakers include Sandy Stone, Shannon Minter (National Center for Lesbian Rights), Kate Bornstein, Anne Bolin, Sandra Bem, and Morgan Holmes (Intersex Society of North America, Canadian chapter). Contacts: Richard Juang, Department

of English, Goldwin Smith Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, USA. rmj8@cornell.edu or W. Carter Smith, Department of Psychology, Uris Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853, USA wcs2@cornell.edu.

12 - 16, Holiday En Femme, at the Holiday Inn, in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, just east of Philadelphia. Hotel rates will be \$69/night (double). Inquiries should be addressed as follows: Holiday En Femme 97, c/o SIGMA NU RHO, 1092 St. Georges Ave., Ste. 234, Rahway NJ 07065. Voice/Fax: 908-826-5287

12 - 16, Joint Meeting AASECT and SSSS: Public Policy and Sexuality, Washington, D.C. Contact Wm. Yarber, HSD, (812) 855-7974, email yarber@indiana.edu, or Dennis Sugrue, Ph.D., (810) 932-6400.

12 - 16, 10th Anniversary Creating Change Conference, San Diego, Calif. email: shyde@nglrf.org, phone: 617-492-6393.

February '98

20-22, "Across the Fruited Plain" The 1998 Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender College Conference MBLGTCC-98 Program Committee OGLBC (M/C 369) 1007 West Harrison St 4078 BSB Chicago, IL 60607-7140 Fax: 312-996-4688 e-mail: mblgtcc98@uic.edu

26 - 3/2, The Texas T Party, 10th Anniversary celebration. Texas "T" Party - P. O. Box 17, Bulverde, Texas

78163 Phone or Fax: (830) 980-7788 (Call any Tuesday before 9:00pm CST, please. You may FAX anytime.)

April '98

1998 IFGE Convention in Toronto, Ontario, CANADA. Contact IFGE (Mass.) or Xpressions (Ontario) for details.

May '98

1998 Esprit in Red Lion, Washington. Details TBA.

June '98

10-14, 16th Annual Be All You Want to Be Weekend Pittsburgh, PA. Hosted by Transpitt, P.O. Box 3214, Pittsburgh PA 15230, 412-231-1181, 412-781-0257.

19-21, Gender, Sexuality, and Law Conference, Keele University Staffordshire, United Kingdom. Contact: GSL98 Conference, Department of Law, Keele University, Staffordshire ST5 5BG, England, UK. Phone: 01782-593218, FAX 01782-593228, GSL98@keele.ac.uk.

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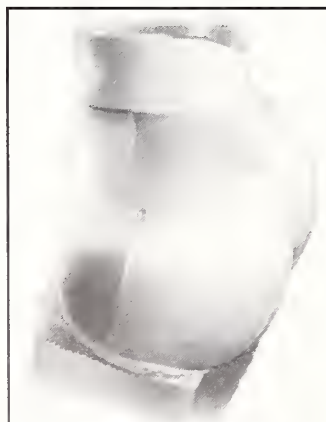
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The New Amy

A true life story—Part 1

As the flight crew announced that we were about to land in Philadelphia, I took a deep breath for a new adventure in my life. After 40 years of keeping my “secret,” I had only recently come out to my significant other. Like most men, I always dressed in conservative business suits, or jeans and a tee shirt or flannel shirt depending on the season and occasion.

But now I needed to be Amy. I had no “real” clothes to wear to a support group, I thought. My best friend was always a finely dressed lady, and for the fifteen years or more we were together, she always wanted me to dress better than I did—and rightly so. But men’s clothing was often so—*drab*! Underneath my life as a business man was that special second self who yearned to dress as a glamorous lady.

After landing at about 1:30 in the afternoon, I walked through the airport terminal to the electric train shuttle which took me to 30th Street Station in Philadelphia. That in itself was interesting, as I saw the transformation from the old rundown sections of the city to the beautiful, newly restored 30th Street Terminal, much like I hoped would happen to me. I grabbed a taxi to the Adams Mark Hotel on City Line Avenue, where I was to meet the person who would help me for better than two days.

My goal was simple. I wanted to get good looking, proper-clothes for the woman in me. I should note that I am 5’11” and weigh 200 pounds, and finding clothing that looks better than gunny sacks was that goal. And I was anxious for Lynda to help me with a transformation process, showing me the best colors of clothes for my personality, cosmetics for my face and hair color. Lynda Krupa does this for a living, and believe me, my expectations were far exceeded.

Mind you, there are several transformation services in the country. Most I am sure are run by fine people and are compassionate to CDs. But I also knew that some are hucksters, preying on the timid of us with our special needs. I had had enough experience in mail order over the years to want better. So I investigated and because of recommendations, I finally located Lynda Krupa. Lynda herself is a straight GG, mid-30s, well dressed, and easy to like. She was trained as a photographer and was a former cosmetic sales person.

I checked into the Adams Mark about three o’clock,

and gave Lynda a call per her instructions. She said she would be over at 4:30 to talk with me and start me on my fantastic journey.

After waiting for what seemed to be forever, a knock came on my door at 4:25, and I thought “well, here goes”. I had come with no feminine clothing to Philadelphia, other than my usual “underdressing,” although I was wearing *Chic* brand jeans, a longtime habit that no one has seemed to notice. I had told Lynda I wanted her help in choosing clothes and accessories from the ground up. And I wanted upscale classy items.

Lynda talked with me for about an hour about my goals. I reaffirmed what I had previously talked about on the phone, and reminded her that she would be the boss, as I still did not want any preconceived notions of what might be best for myself.

It was then off to the corset shop. Lynda has this special arrangement with a local merchant who, after closing at 6 p.m., will work with crossdressers like myself to supply the proper undergarments in order that my clothes will fit well. The proprietor of the shop, Meryl, is about the kindest person I have ever met. I felt completely at home with her from the time she asked me to remove everything “down to my panties” until Lynda and I left at 9 p.m.!

Meryl first measured me for the proper fitting bra (no more guess work, ladies) and then a foundation. I

Lynda of
CDtips ►



AMY...

had already figured out the bra size through trial and error, but the foundation—a strong and properly fitting girdle, not a corset, was the key. In fact, that garment and a long line bra over my breast forms has allowed me to wear them for full days without discomfort, and yet concealing the bulges caused by my slightly oversized tummy. I bought sets in both black and white, carefully trying on to check fit on all garments. It was like being in a candy store! But long-line bras and girdles were not the only thing I bought. I found some really neat matching bra and pantie sets. And a Smoothie. And a real cute bathing suit in my size (16). And a sexy white nightgown with matching coverup. And a black one. And a soft white terry robe with clouds and moon on it. And real nylon stockings that fit. (I now hate pantyhose!)

Meryl showed me every line she had. I could, and did, try on anything that might fit. She even had breast forms that were fabulous. They clung to your body with velcro-type strips. They were soft like the real ones, and I bought a pair. Easy on, easy off! And they don't move around.

A long day, but as Lynda drove me back to the hotel, I told her about myself, and we discussed our lives. She is a fascinating person.

Day two: Wednesday. Lynda, who believes in a healthy body, and exercises for a couple of hours every day, arrived to pick me up at 10 o'clock. No need to do anything much earlier, as the stores don't open till then anyway. We drove to the large regional mall where Lynda had *pre-shopped* for me, picking out a large selection of woman's clothes in my size at upscale department stores. She has a special arrangement with the managements and clerks of both stores for us crossdressers. A private changing room was also prearranged. Try on and take all day if you wish.

The first stop was the women's department dressing room where I put on my black foundation, bra and breast forms, and stockings (all of which I needed to keep on all day). I tried on dozens of outfits, grouped into color types. Some were plainly wrong for me. When the size was not correct, Lynda would hustle out into the racks to secure better fitting ones. Both of the department stores we visited had large selections of merchandise in *my* size!

As I sat in the dressing room, I began to see how these new clothes, properly chosen and fitted would enhance my image of myself as a crossdresser. No more would I have to make do with often tight or otherwise ill fitting garments scrounged in haste from garage sales, or even purchased through mail order catalogues. I was amazed!

All women seem to start out with "basic black" and Lynda's selections for me were no different. Besides a black skirt and coat, there came a beautiful matching blouse, and pants, and another top, and more. Several outfits from a few pieces. And she did this with an off-white ensemble. Beautiful pieces to bring out the best in me. And I tried on other basic color groups, each with several pieces. With Lynda's guidance, I was able to make the selection that fit my mood—and *pocketbook*.

But wait, I wanted more than "business suits". I tried on a full length gorgeous dinner dress that I fell in love with! (It is my favorite piece.) I can see the thrill that most women get when they go shopping. And some great tops that would allow a more casual look. That was at the first store.

Actually, we hadn't "bought" anything yet. We had to shop another store yet. To compare. So off across the mall (with foundations and stockings on under my street clothes, I might note) to that second store. There were not many things that Lynda had preselected here, but I did get a couple of the pieces she had set aside.

I still wanted to get some more everyday, summery dresses, so we both went out into the "racks" to see what was there. What an exhilarating feeling to be able to pick from a large selection, with Lynda being my "crutch". I selected and tried on various dresses, skirts and blouses. And I bought a nice navy blue top and shorts with a white coverup for the boat ride I was planning to take with my support group.

Lynda had also picked out a large selection of costume jewelry and I tried on dozens of pieces--gold, silver, pearls. Bracelets, necklaces, earrings. And then I had to make the selection. By now I had decided on several outfits, so I bought only a limited amount of jewelry to conserve money, I suppose. I also bought two handbags, a black and a white one. Again, I should have bought more for the clothes I had selected, but I decided to make do.

We then made the formal purchases at each of the two stores, but not before again reviewing my selections. Brands I had chose included *Elizabeth*, *Jones of New York*, and *Benjamin A*. In both stores, I opened up a charge account to get advantage of a discount for the day. The store clerks were extremely courteous, as Lynda brings them a lot of business. They both offered to ship my merchandise, and I took them up on this offer, except for a few items that I wanted to get tailored or wear the next day.

To be continued next issue...



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**Joann Roberts (l) & Amanda Grae (r) ▲
at the Renaissance 10th Anniversary Celebration**

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On My Mind...



I apologize for the lateness of this issue. I thought we had worked out the problems with our distribution system, but to my great dismay, the situation got worse. Our distributor was delivering the magazines to vendors alright, they just weren't paying us for them.

That left us facing a very difficult decision in August. Do we continue to throw good money down what seemed a deep hole, or take on the distribution ourselves. As they say, "If you want something done right, do it yourself." So, we are.

Beginning with this issue, we're self-distributed. We now have 100 percent control over this magazine.

So, I need your help. We need to know where you've been buying *LadyLike* and the other transgender magazines in the past. We've got a pretty good notion of where most of the magazines go, but we can always use more outlets. So, write, call or email us. Also, it finally looks like we're going to get distribution to Barnes & Noble, Borders, Bookstar, and other mainstream bookstands. If you see that your local bookstore is carrying one of the major transgender titles, ask them to carry *LadyLike*, too. If you notice that an outlet that used to carry us has stopped, please drop us a line and we'll try to get back on that newsstand. If you see a new bookstore or newsstand opening, ask if they will carry *LadyLike*. When magazines like *LadyLike*, *Transgender*, and *Dragazine* are freely available on newsstands anywhere, then we'll have achieved a measure of gender freedom previously unknown. You can help simply by asking for these magazines at local newsstands and bookstores.

Working The Competition

Over the last few years, I've received letters from publishers of other transgender magazines and the theme is always the same — competition.

One publisher was terribly upset because we published a reader's letter wherein the reader made a negative statement about a pseudo-hormone product for sale

through a well-known vendor. Seems the publisher was also the vendor and seemed to think we were trying to denigrate her publication. Hogwash! It is not our policy to make negative statements about other magazines, but it seems to me we have some obligation to present a reader's views uncensored as long as those views don't violate any laws. That's what we did.

Along the way to 1997 from 1987, when *LadyLike* was started, we've had run ins with varied and sundried would-be publishers. You can tell a lot by grammar and spelling. I mean, if an editor can't tell the difference between "your" and "you're" and "its" and "it's," then I don't worry about them as competition.

In fact, we don't even consider other magazines to be competition. Each of us has a unique take on the community and we each serve overlapping niches. *Transgender* (nee *Tapestry*) has always been pretty serious and remains so even though the format has lightened considerably. I think of it as the *US News & World Report* of the tg scene. *Dragazine* is a once a year thing and focuses on the high-camp drag scene, kinda like *MAD* magazine, just lots of fun. *LadyLike* is more like *Vogue* or *Cosmo*, with lots of photos and single and two-page features. *Transformation* is in a category of its own with graphic sexual images and it outsells all the others combined, but I always go for quality over quantity.

So, we don't think of any of these magazines as our competition. We only compete with ourselves at *LadyLike*. Our goal is to make each new issue better than the previous one. That means more color pages, making it easier to contact people, and expanding our Resources section with a calendar of events. If there's something you'd like us to consider, please let us know. We produce this magazine, that's true, but if you don't like it, what good is that? We have to create what you want to see and read, right?

I'll be travelling quite a bit this year and next, so if you see me at one of the many tg events around the country, stop me to say hello, or tell me your great new idea for the magazine. I always enjoy meeting readers and I'm willing to listen to all suggestions.

JoAnn Roberts

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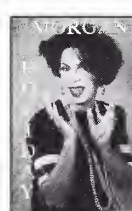
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